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THE

PRINCESS OF ZELL.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

MEMOIRS

OF THE

PRINCESS OF ZELL,

CONSORT TO

KING GEORGE THE FIRST.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

——— " 'Tis better to be lowly born,
And range with humble livers in content,
Than to be perk'd up in a glitt'ring grief,
And wear a golden sorrow."

SHAKSPEARE'S HENRY VIII.

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THE

PRINCESS OF ZELL.

THE Parliament was ſhocked at ſuch a propoſition; and, except the Partizans of the faction, who were few in number, all the deputies rejected it as criminal; but Cromwell, having brought troops into the capital, where the Parliament were aſſembled, placed himſelf at the head of them, whilſt, by a detachment from his army,

he took away the King, and cauſed him to be conducted, as a priſoner, to one of his palaces, which was neareſt the metropolis.

Charles ſuffered this new diſgrace with a courage that aſtoniſhed his enemies.—The Parliament publiſhed a declaration, by which they profeſſed themſelves ſatisfied with his conduct; but this ſtep could not ſave him from the moſt melancholy cataſtrophe, that ever happened; the chief of the rebels turned all thoſe out of the Parliament who oppoſed him, and replaced them with his own creatures.

He

He appointed commiſſioners to judge the King, who was obliged to appear before them:—He, with conſtancy, refuſed to anſwer to their accuſations; but that did not prevent theſe villains from condemning him to loſe his head.

So unheard of a ſentence inſpired all nations with horror; ſeveral Engliſh noblemen offered their heads to ſave that of the King:—Almoſt every Sovereign in Europe ſolicited the tyrant, and threatened him with their indignation.

The Scots, ſhocked at the idea of regicide, proteſted againſt the decree; but all this could not move or intimi-

date him; the fatal ſentence was executed, and the King ſuffered death with aſtoniſhing fortitude and intrepidity.

His eldeſt ſon, who had taken refuge in France, took the title of King, by the name of Charles the Second, as ſoon as he knew the melancholy end of his father.

Cromwell, having made himſelf maſter of the government, Charles dared not viſit England.—It was not till ſome time after, that the Scots, the authors of the miſchief (by having given up Charles the Firſt) willing to repair the fault, called over the Prince,

and

and crowned him, but under ſuch limited condition, as deprived him of all authority.

Charles was ſoon weary of being King without the power; he attached himſelf to the Highlanders, who promiſed him their aſſiſtance towards recovering his rights, provided he would place himſelf at their head.—This Prince conſented to it, and made his eſcape, under pretence of going a hunting.—He at firſt retired to the houſe of a nobleman, one of his faithful Partizans, where he remained concealed till he could be well informed of the true ſentiments and ſtrength of thoſe who invited him.

His invaſion gave a great deal of uneaſineſs to thoſe of the government; they took every method of diſcovering where he was; and having found out his place of concealment, they diſpatched one of their party to invite him over, promiſing a change of conduct, and to give him the power he wiſhed for.

Charles yielded to their perſuaſions, and, in reality, had reaſon to be ſatisfied.—There is a probability that they would have aſſiſted him in ſettling his affairs in England, if the tyrant, who put his father to death, had been leſs vigilant, leſs enterpriſing, and leſs fortunate.

But

But this man, who had been detained a long time in England, by a fit of ſickneſs, was no ſooner recovered, than he aſſembled his army, and marched againſt Charles, who came to meet him at the head of the Scots.

The animoſities of the two parties, and the deſire of conqueſt being equal, they ſoon came to an engagement, and a ſingle battle decided their fortune.—The King was entirely defeated, and had no hope left but that inſpired by a confidence in God.

This unfortunate Prince had much difficulty in finding a retreat, where he might take ſome repoſe, and deviſe

means of eſcaping out of the kingdom, in which he could not remain, but at the peril of his life.

A peaſant, who met him, recollecting him, offered him an aſylum, from the fury of his enemies;—and this Prince, who was born to rule a kingdom, was reduced to be obliged, by a ruſtic, who taught him, that virtue is to be found in all ſituations.—This peaſant immediately cut his hair, and gave him a mean ſuit of clothes, and led him to a foreſt, where he ſhewed him a tree, in which was a hollow large enough to conceal him, and a companion of his flight.—He there paſſed ſeveral days, without any other food

but

but milk and cheeſe, which this faithful peaſant ſent him by an old woman.

Charles, having remained five or ſix days in this melancholy aſylum, wiſhed to get nearer to the ſea, in order that he might embark for France; and recollecting that a gentleman was attached to him, who lived a few miles diſtant, he reſolved to go thither, and to truſt his fate to him.—He travelled there on foot; the truſty peaſant ſerved him as a guide, and acquitted himſelf with the greateſt prudence, as he underſtood how to avoid the guards, which Cromwell had placed at different diſtances, to intercept the King.

The

The Prince, however, arrived ſafe at this gentleman's houſe, and was there received with every mark of the ſincereſt fidelity.—He concealed him immediately, with the utmoſt care; and this precaution was the more neceſſary, as, in a ſhort time after Charles was in ſafety, there came ſoldiers from the tyrant to ſeek for him.

The compoſure with which this gentleman opened the door to them, and permitted them to ſearch the houſe, deceived thoſe emiſſaries, and ſaved the King.

The next day the gentleman ſent the King away towards the ſea, recommending

mending him to another gentleman, one of his particular friends.—Charles was diſguiſed as a footman, and had his friend's daughter behind him on a pillion, and another woman and a footman followed.

This was three days journey, during which time, Charles had need of all his preſence of mind.—His horſe dropped his ſhoe on the road; he went himſelf to the farrier, to have it put on, wiſhing to maintain the character he had adopted.

As the blackſmith held the horſe's foot, he aſked him if he could tell if the King was taken.—"I wiſh," con-

tinued he, " I knew where he was, that I might get the reward offered by Parliament."

Charles, without betraying any emotion, anſwered, " that he did not know any thing of him, but ſhould like the reward himſelf;" and he has ſince told me, in Holland (where I met him) in relating his adventures, that never any diſcourſe had appeared to him ſo long or ſo tireſome, and that he never mounted ſo lightly on his horſe as after it was ſhod. * * *

As he continued his road, he ſaw bonfires every where, and heard the bells ring, in token of rejoicing, at a report

report which had prevailed of his death.—This idea would have ſerved to facilitate his eſcape out of England, if it had not been deſtroyed as ſoon as it had birth.

Being arrived at the houſe of his new hoſt, he was received with as much zeal as he had experienced from the former.

This gentleman employed a merchant to procure a veſſel, as he ſaid, for an officer of the King's party, who wanted to go over to France.

The day before Charles was to embark, the Captain recollected him, and reproached

reproached the merchant who had hired him, for having deceived him, and the danger to which he had expoſed him, in requiring him to take over the King; the Parliament, or rather Cromwell, having forbid him, on pain of death, to facilitate the flight of this Prince.

The merchant, who was ignorant that it was the King, for whom he was employed, now no longer doubted that it was him; but being willing to be deceived, he beſought the Captain not to liſten to his ſuſpicions, and did all he could to diſſuade him from the idea.—At length, by bribery and entreaties, the maſter, without being undeceived,

undeceived, ſuffered himſelf to be prevailed upon.—Charles having embarked, the merchant kiſſed his hand, telling him he had ſuffered himſelf to be deluded, but wiſhed him a ſucceſsful voyage, and a happy return to his kingdom.

The King's voyage was fortunate; he arrived ſafe in France in a ſhort time, where he found the Queen, his mother, and the reſt of his family.—He reſided for ſome time in that kingdom, ſupported by the benevolence of the King, his uncle, whilſt the uſurper of England peaceably enjoyed the fruit of his crimes, under the title of "the Protector of the Republic,"

into

into which he erected the kingdoms of England and Scotland.—His government was one ſeries of proſperity, and his name equally feared and hated throughout Europe.

His death put an end to his tyranny; and although his ſon, at firſt, ſucceeded to his dignities, as he had neither his capacity nor good fortune, he was ſoon obliged to renounce the ſupreme authority, and yield the throne to its lawful maſter.

The Parliament, having recalled Charles, the royal command was reeſtabliſhed with as much ſplendor as before the troubles; and the Monarch

was

was proclaimed with univerſal acclamations of joy.—Nothing could be more ſplendid than the commencement of his reign; he was adored by his ſubjects; and happy would it have been for him if he had known how to preſerve their eſteem.

This Prince was handſome, and had a good underſtanding.—No one ſpoke better than he did; he was brave; and it is ſaid, that at twelve years of age, he diſtinguiſhed himſelf in a battle, which the King, his father, won in the beginning of the civil wars.

He was liberal and magnificent, even to prodigality, and made himſelf

very popular, which gained him the love of all his ſubjects; but the nobility were ſoon diſguſted with him, and perceived that his defects, by far, ſurpaſſed his good qualities.

His eaſineſs of temper; his want of application to buſineſs; his levity, and that unſteadineſs which never left him; his exceſſive inclination for women;—his want of religion, and too great complaiſance for his brother, drew inconveniencies upon him, which probably, had he lived much longer, would have cauſed him to fall into the ſame unfortunate ſituation in which we now ſee James the Second.

Charles

Charles thus died as he had lived. His death was cauſed by a diſorder, which his phyſicians could not find out; and it was conjectured he had been poiſoned, perhaps rather becauſe men are naturally led to attribute the death of great perſonages to extraordinary cauſes, than from any certain indications.

As this Prince did not leave any legitimate heir, he was ſucceeded by his brother, James the Second. This Prince had employed his youth in the exerciſe of arms. At nine years of age he was found in battle by the ſide of his father, and ſince that, had always ſerved in the army of the French

King, where he acquired a great reputation.—When Charles the Second was reſtored to his crown, he came over with him to England, and occupied the firſt poſts in the adminiſtration, which, joined to his having two daughters, and his brother not having any children, attached many to him as heir to the crown.

The people were fond of him till he diſcovered to them that he was not of the eſtabliſhed religion of the country, which he renounced, ſoon after the reinſtatement of his family, having been ſeduced by the examples and exhortations of the Queen, his mother.

By

By this conduct, he loſt the affections of his people; and more ſo, when they ſaw, that, after the death of his firſt wife, by whom he had two daughters, he married again to a Princeſs of his own religion.

The Parliament were ſo diſſatisfied at this new alliance, that they begged of Charles the Second, who then reſigned, not to conſent to it; but this Prince, who had a regard for his brother, amounting to weakneſs, would not give him this uneaſineſs.—However, the people were ſo provoked, when they were informed that this marriage was concluded, that James was obliged to watch an opportunity

for bringing his new wife into the capital.

It was then that the Parliament, enraged at this Prince, agreed to exclude him from the throne; but as it is neceſſary that the reſolutions of the Engliſh Parliament ſhould be confirmed by the King, before they can paſs into laws, this never took place, as Charles, who was always an affectionate brother, refuſed his aſſent.

Notwithſtanding the little regard the greateſt part of the nation had for James, this Prince aſcended the throne without the ſmalleſt oppoſition.—The firſt time he ſpoke in council, it was

in

in terms ſo full of moderation, mingled with dignity, that his ſpeech, being publiſhed, made great impreſſion on the minds of his people.

This mildneſs laſted but a ſhort time, and he returned, by degrees, to his natural diſpoſition, which was inclined to haughtineſs.

James forgot all he had promiſed in his ſpeech.—Animated by the prieſts of his religion, and by the Queen, his wife, who, under the appearance of a devotion, which tended to bigotry, concealed a great deal of pride, and an unbounded deſire to introduce deſpotiſm, a ſpecies of government to

which James was the more inclined to, as, among the degrees of his family, he had learned all the principles of it in his youth.

The Prince took but little share in the remaining events of the reign of his uncle, and evidently saw a party rising against him, at the head of which was the Duke of Monmouth, natural son of James the Second.

This young man was handsome, full of ambition and valour, but of a temper little adapted to support a great undertaking.—In this act, however, under him James engaging some of the nobility in his party, and he appeared

in

in the field with a body of troops, although ill diſciplined, conſiderable enough to give the King ſome uneaſineſs, if he had poſſeſſed more moderation and experience; but elated with ſome trifling ſucceſſes, he met with at firſt, he had the audacity to get himſelf proclaimed King, and treated James as an uſurper.

But this raſhneſs coſt him dear, and was very ſoon puniſhed.—The King ſent troops to give him battle;—he was defeated, and taken priſoner.—His courage forſook him, as ſoon as he ſaw himſelf in the King's power; and there was nothing he did not do to endeavour to ſave his head.—He

aſked to ſpeak with the King; and this Prince, having ſent for him, he threw himſelf at his feet, and demanded his life, but without any advantage, having humbled himſelf to no purpoſe, and he loſt his head on the ſcaffold.

After the defeat and death of the unfortunate Monmouth, James, on whom fortune ſeemed to ſmile, thought he might undertake any thing.—He filled the ſenate and the army with perſons of his own religion, contrary to the oath he had taken, when he aſcended the throne.—He afterwards attempted to eſtabliſh his faith, under pretence, that all religion

ſhould be tolerated in England: The Biſhops oppoſed it, and he cauſed ſeven of them to be impriſoned.

Perhaps, nothſtanding theſe complaints and murmurs, they might have left this Prince unmoleſted, as he had two daughters by his firſt wife, who were Proteſtants, and therefore every thing would return to its former footing after his death, if the Queen, who had not had a child for ſome years, had not been declared pregnant, and actually brought a ſon.

The whole nation, foreſeeing the danger to which they were expoſed, in having their laws and privileges annihilated,

nihilated, thought it time to provide for their ſafety.

The Parliament called to their aſſiſtance the Stadtholder, ſon-in-law to the King; and this Prince did not delay, but landed, with a formidable army, in England, where he was joined by the greateſt perſons in the kingdom: Among others, by the Princeſs Ann and her ſpouſe (the daughter and ſon-in-law to the King). James was ſo alarmed at this deſertion, that he gave all over as loſt.—The example of his father terrified him, and he only thought of eſcaping with his family; but as it was difficult to conceal his flight, if he had the Queen with him, he

he ſent her and her ſon over to France, to Lewis the Fourteenth, his friend and ally.

He prepared to follow the next day; and for this purpoſe diſguiſed himſelf, and, attended by one man only, he embarked on board a ſmall fiſhing boat, and was conveyed to the firſt port, where he diſcovered himſelf, and the inhabitants of the place treated him with every mark of reſpect due to their Sovereign.

The return of James was known in the capital, almoſt as ſoon as his flight. The chiefs, informed of the place where he was, ſent him his houſehold,

his

his guards, and his carriages, and entreated his return to the palace. He yielded to their ſolicitations, and his entry into the capital had much the air of triumph.

Never were heard ſuch acclamations; never was ſeen a greater inconſtancy of fortune.—James thought the unſtable goddeſs reconciled to him; he began to recover from his panic, and to reſume a part of his uſual haughtineſs, when he received a letter from his ſon-in-law, which ſhewed him how little he had to depend on, from the affection of his ſubjects, and renewed all his fears.

This

This Prince, who was approaching with his army, ſent him word, that the buſineſs of the ſtate called him to the capital; therefore deſired him to retire to one of his country houſes, which ever ſhould be moſt agreeable to him.

This compliment, ſent him at midnight, when the King was in bed, and who was awakened to receive it, greatly ſurpriſed this Prince, and even ſeemed too ſevere to the moderate party.

The King, obliged to yield to his fate, conſented to whatever they deſired.—He only aſked, that inſtead of

retiring

retiring to one of his palaces, he might be permitted to go to one of the ſea-port towns.

The Stadtholder ſaw plainly that he only made this demand that he might leave the kingdom with more facility; and as this was what William wiſhed for, he granted his requeſt.

James, as a priſoner, might have moved the compaſſion of his ſubjects; but James, flying, might be accuſed of deſerting his kingdom, which was what gave more hopes to the ſon-in-law, and cauſed, in reality, the misfortunes of the father-in-law.

The

The King was then obliged to give up his palace to the Prince of Orange, and he was conducted to the town where he wiſhed to go.—They gave him a Dutch guard, but who were ordered not to reſtrain him.

This Prince paſſed ſeveral days at this place; and happy would it have been for him if he had never left it;—the minds of the people would probably have returned to him, at leaſt he would have nothing to fear, either for his life or liberty, his eldeſt daughter, wife to the Stadtholder, having too much goodneſs to ſuffer an attempt on the perſon of her father, though his diſtreſſes, it muſt be confeſſed, did not

give her the uneaſineſs which might have been expected.

James had it in his power to work ſome favourable revolution; and if even that did not happen, he would have had the ſatisfaction not to be accuſed of deſertion; and if his life had been attempted, he would have had the glory to die like a King; but fear had ſeized this Prince too much; the example of his father terrified him; he embarked as ſoon as he poſſibly could, and was joined in France by his wife and ſon.

The Parliament no ſooner heard of his flight, than they declared the throne

throne vacant; and that hereafter, neither James, his ſon, or any one ſoever, of a different religion to that eſtabliſhed in England, ſhould aſcend the throne.

In this declaration, James's ſon was treated as ſuppoſitious: I do not know if there was more malice than truth in this aſſertion; but it is certain, that the Queen had given reaſon for it, by having affected not to approve being brought to bed in the preſence of thoſe perſons who had a right, by birth or dignity, to be preſent, as is the cuſtom in England.

The Stadtholder and the Princeſs, his wife, were proclaimed King and Queen, jointly, and the Crown was acknowledged to devolve, of right, to their children, if they ſhould have any; but, in default of their iſſue, to the Princeſs Ann and her deſcendants.

That Princeſs, then, had a ſon, who is lately dead; and as it is not believed that ſhe will have any more children, myſelf, being the neareſt relation of the eſtabliſhed religion of England, the preſent King, wiſhing to take away all hope from James and his ſon, of re-aſcending the throne, and wiſhing to prevent every ſpecies of diſturbance, has brought the Parliament

ment to acknowledge me and my children heirs to the Princeſs Ann.

It is, (continued ſhe to the Duke) to your father that I owe this obligation, for what the King of England has done for me;* for I confeſs to you I do not believe this Prince would have thought on me, if, in the journey he made to Zell, the Duke, your father (with whom you know he is connected by the ſtricted friendſhip) ſeeing

* William the Third, King of England, came on purpoſe from Holland, to make a viſit to the Duke of Zell, for whom he had a great reſpect.—It was in this journey that Bernſtaff propoſed to call the Houſe of Hanover to the ſucceſſion of the throne of England.

him uneaſy at the troubles which threatened England, after his death, and that of the Princeſs Ann, had not given her the idea of appointing me heir.

In doing me this ſervice, he was likewiſe promoting your intereſts;—for although I have ever cheriſhed a hope of one day wearing that crown, yet, ſhould I ever attain that honour, my age does not admit a ſuppoſition that it can be for any length of time; but for you and my ſon, you may enjoy it many years; and I think you will not accuſe me of inſincerity, when I wiſh you may one day aſcend that throne,

throne, to the ſatisfaction and honour of the Britiſh nation.

The Princeſs thanked the Electreſs for her good wiſhes, and for her kind information of the misfortunes of the Houſe of Stuart, and told her ſhe was ignorant if the Duke, her father, had, in reality, contributed to the ſucceſs of this buſineſs, but that ſhe remembered to have heard him ſay, that he wiſhed nothing more ardently, than to be able, by his good offices, to procure theſe advantages to the Houſe of Hanover.

The pleaſures of the Court were ſoon interrupted, and converted into

ſadneſs, by the news of the death of Prince Charles, who was killed in a battle, in which the Turks were victorious.

A report was circulated for ſome days, that Kunigſmark had ſhared the ſame fate.

The compaſſionate heart of the Princeſs made her ſhed a few tears; and the loſs ſhe experienced at the ſame time, of a brother-in-law ſhe loved, and a man ſhe eſteemed, appeared to her ſufficient motives for regret.

The

The Counteſs of Plate was in deſpair at hearing of the death of Kunigſmark, and her behaviour made her ſiſter, who never left her, fearful that ſhe would loſe the uſe of her reaſon.

Fortunately for her, the Elector was indiſpoſed at the ſame time, and did not leave his chamber; ſo that ſhe was enabled to conceal her grief, by pretending to be unwell.

She remained in this ſituation ſeveral days; but at laſt ſhe heard that Kunigſmark was living, and that he was on his return to Court with all ſpeed.

At

At this news, her joy was unſpe able, and ſhe was obliged to keep room, to conceal it as much as bef to hide her grief.

The Princeſs was not inſenſible it; and the life of Kunigſmark rec ciled her more eaſily to the death Charles.—The ſtate ſuffered a cc derable loſs in this Prince; he handſome, well made, brave, ar tious, and ſenſible, with all the petuoſity natural to youth, but would have been a great Prince, he lived, for time to have maturec judgment.

It is difficult to expreſs the grief that Kunigſmark felt, at the death of a Prince whom he loved, not only as the ſon of his maſter, but as the moſt tender of friends.—He made all poſſible ſearch for his body, in order to give it the rite of burial; but all his pains were ineffectual; he could not diſcover it; and Kunigſmark was deprived of the melancholy conſolation of rendering this laſt ſervice to his friend, Prince Charles.

The troops, being in winter quarters, Kunigſmark returned to Court, and was received by the Princeſs with a diſtinction, which would have ſatisfied Kunigſmark, had he been indifferent,

but

but did not content Kunigſmark as a lover.

The Princeſs was more than ever at variance with the Prince, her huſband.—She could not bear, in her ſight, Henrietta de Weiſebourg, ſiſter to the Counteſs de Plate, and had given orders that ſhe ſhould not appear before her any more.

The Prince was highly offended;—he went to the Princeſs's apartment, and, after having ſaid every thing to her which his anger dictated, he ordered her not only to receive Henrietta, but to treat her as a perſon ſhe regarded.

The

The Princeſs, ſtung to the ſoul, loſt all moderation, and replied with more acrimony than ſhe had ever before done.—Prince George, only the more provoked, gave way to his rage;—ſeized her by the throat, and graſped it with ſuch violence, that the Princeſs's women, who ruſhed in, alarmed at her cries, had much difficulty to diſengage her from him.

The Prince left the room, threatening her for ever with his reſentment; and the unfortunate lady remained ſome time in a ſtate of inſenſibility, and would doubtleſs have fallen a victim to his unkindneſs, but for the attention of the women.—When ſhe had

had recovered from her faintings, ſhe found herſelf ſo extremely wretched, that ſhe fell into a kind of ſtupor, bordering on deſpair; but Heaven, who reſerved her reſolution for a ſtill greater trial, gave her ſtrength, this time, to ſupport her diſgrace.

Kunigſmark's return was a ſmall conſolation to her; and to have ſome one to whom ſhe could impart the exceſs of her grief, appeared the greateſt alleviation to them that her unhappy ſtate would admit of. She often diſcourſed to him on this ſubject, without imagining it could be imputed to her as a crime.

Kunigſmark

Kunigſmark was now ſo happy in her company, that he forgot, that not having Prince Charles to attend, his aſſiduity could only be attributed to his attachment for the Princeſs, while ſome malicious courtiers watched his every action, and ſoon diſcovered that Kunigſmark's eyes, when near the Princeſs, were always fixed on her.

The Counteſs de Plate entertained ſuſpicions which ſhe could not diſſimulate. She did not conceal them from Kunigſmark; and this lover, knowing the favourite's diſpoſition, trembled for the life of the Princeſs. He thought every thing was allowable, that might ſave her; and he made no ſcruple

ſcruple of encouraging the Counteſs. By his attentions, his ſubmiſſions, and his oaths, he ſwore to her that he would never more ſee the Princeſs, but at ſuch times as when the whole Court were preſent; and in ſhort, made ſo many proteſtations of fidelity, that, if he did not entirely deſtroy the ſuſpicions of the Counteſs, he at leaſt quieted them; but it was but for a ſhort time; the Counteſs's ſentiments towards him were too lively, and ſhe poſſeſſed too much penetration, not to diſcover the truth of an affair, in which his heart was ſo much intereſted.

It was at an entertainment, that Kunigſmark gave to the Elector and

Electreſs, and the reſt of the Court, that the ſuſpicions of the Counteſs were changed into the moſt outrageous jealouſy.

This nobleman, who only ſought occaſion to diſplay his magnificence, had entreated the Elector, under pretence of ſhewing him his gallery of pictures, which he had juſt compleated, to do him the honour to ſup at his houſe, with the Electreſs and the royal family; but in fact he was pleaſed to diſplay to the eyes of the Princeſs this ſhew and profuſion, while he endeavoured to make it appear to the Counteſs, that it was on account of her birth-day, that he gave this fête,

which was the moſt ſuperb of the kind ever ſeen.

The Princeſs and the Counteſs, though from different motives, had neglected nothing to appear with the greateſt eclat. After they retired from table, the ball began.—It was broke off three times, by ballets performed by the moſt celebrated maſters; and at each interruption, the moſt coſtly refreſhments were ſerved. In ſhort, all paſſed with ſo much ſplendor, magnificence, and order, that all, who were preſent, were equally delighted. The Counteſs alone appeared diſſatisfied, which Kunigſmark perceiving, ſeized

a moment when the Elector was not near her.

"May I dare, Madam," ſaid he, "to inquire what can occaſion you to put on this ſerious air;—while the whole Court does me the honour of applauding my féte, ſhall the beauteous Counteſs, who is the ſole motive of it, alone think it unworthy her approbation?"

"Leave me," replied the Counteſs, abruptly; "go and receive the applauſes of the Princeſs."

The Elector, at this moment, rejoined the Counteſs, and Kunigſmark retired.

The Elector, having remarked ſome alteration in the countenance of his miſtreſs, inquired the cauſe; and ſhe told him, ſhe found herſelf indiſpoſed, and begged leave to retire.

The Elector, who had no other will than her's, conſented to it; but as he thought her really indiſpoſed, his impatience would not permit him long to delay an inquiry, in perſon, after her health. He followed ſoon after, and haſtened to her houſe;—but the Counteſs, who expected this attention,

attention, had given orders to ſay ſhe was retired to reſt; ſo that this Prince was obliged to content himſelf with hearing ſhe was ſomewhat better.

Kunigſmark went the next day to thank the Electreſs for the honour ſhe had done him in ſupping at his houſe. He there found the Counteſs; he bowed to her; but ſhe looked at him with ſo much diſdain, that he concluded himſelf for ever ruined in her opinion.

"May I not know, Madam," ſaid he, approaching her, "what is my crime; will you condemn me unheard?"

"No," replied ſhe, "I wiſh to ſpeak with you, and convince you of your perfidy; but it muſt not be here. Come to me this evening, after the Elector is retired, and I ſhall ſee if you can ſtill juſtify yourſelf."

Kunigſmark only anſwered by a bow, but did not fail to fulfil his appointment.

"Well," ſaid ſhe to him, as ſoon as ſhe ſaw him, "do you dare to preſent yourſelf before me again? Will you dare maintain, that you do not love the Princeſs, and that you are not beloved by her?"

"Yes,"

"Yes," anſwered Kunigſmark, "I dare aver, that your ſuſpicions are the moſt unjuſt in the world, and that never any perſon loved you more tenderly than I do.

"If the attention I yeſterday paid to the Princeſs, are this day imputed to me as a crime, it will be eaſy for me to juſtify myſelf, provided you will liſten to me:—My inclination, my heart, and my wiſhes, were with you; and I envied the happineſs of the Elector a thouſand times, but I dared not approach you.

"You know he has entertained ſuſpicions, that you honoured me with

ſome attention.—It would have been as imprudent as raſh, to have paid you, in his preſence, all that reſpect and aſſiduity which my heart dictated. Thus it was your intereſt and your peace which engaged me, not to expreſs to you any other ſentiments than thoſe of the reſpect due to you.

" As to the attention I paid the Princeſs, her rank, and the honour ſhe did me, in coming to my houſe, did they not oblige me to pay her every poſſible reſpect ?

" But, Madam, did I go beyond this indiſpenſable duty ? You are continually reproaching me with the Princeſs ;

ceſs; but can you teach me the method how to avoid paying my court to her?

"Since you have expreſſed uneaſineſs at my frequent viſits to her, I have changed my conduct, and I never go but when all the Court is preſent, which cannot be diſpenſed with without an appearance of neglect, which might be diſpleaſing to the Elector.

"Preſcribe to me, then, how you would have me conduct myſelf, and I proteſt to you that I will conform to it."

"Well,"

"Well," replied the Counteſs, ſomewhat ſoftened, "I am willing to believe you innocent, becauſe I wiſh it; and I wiſh it, as I would have you only mine.

"It would be impoſſible for me to know you loved another, without being driven to ſome exceſs of revenge; but when I profeſs I am ready to believe you, and perhaps to deceive myſelf, I only aſk you to be candid.—Does not the Princeſs love you? Why was ſhe, yeſterday, ſo richly ornamented? Why was ſhe ſo cheerful? She, who has, for a long time, been negligent of her perſon, and abſorbed in melancholy, can I attribute it to any other

other cauſe, than the deſire of pleaſing you, and to ſhew the ſatisfaction ſhe experienced, in being in your company?"

"I am ignorant," anſwered Kunigſmark, "what may be the ſubject of the grief, which certainly has appeared to occupy the mind of the Princeſs for ſome time; and I ſwear to you I never perceived ſhe did me the honour to diſtinguiſh me from the other courtiers.

"As to her dreſs, ſhe neither flattered nor ſurpriſed me by it, knowing, as I do, that ſhe always loved ſhew."

"You

"You conſtrain me to believe whatever you ſay," replied the Counteſs, "and to confide in your word; but depend upon it, you cannot long deceive me; and remember I will have your whole heart: I cannot admit you to have any friends, either male or female, but ſuch as are agreeable to me; I require that you give up every other care but that of pleaſing me.

"Perhaps you may think I ſpeak with too much authority; but my paſſion for you urges me to apply with the utmoſt aſſiduity, to the eſtabliſhment of your fortune, and I promiſe you, that whatever I ſhall do for you,

I

I ſhall think myſelf amply rewarded, if I find your conduct anſwer my wiſhes.

"But I alſo forewarn you, that if you deceive me, you will find in me the moſt implacable of enemies."

The Counteſs's eyes were ſuffuſed with tears, as ſhe finiſhed theſe words. Kunigſmark threw himſelf at her feet, and expreſſed ſo much gratitude for her kindneſs, that the Counteſs, yielding to the aſcendancy he had over her heart, placed an entire confidence in his juſtification, and loved him more tenderly than ever

After

After this reconciliation, Kunigſmark took the utmoſt precaution not to offend the Counteſs.—He went no more to the Princeſs's apartment, but at the time when all the Court were preſent, and conducted himſelf in ſuch a manner, that ſhe really thought herſelf honoured.

She, nevertheleſs, dreaded the beauty of the Princeſs, and conceived ſo great a hatred for her, that ſhe took every opportunity to ſlander her, and to ſpeak of her in the moſt opprobrious terms.—Theſe ſpeeches were reported to Mademoiſelle de Molck, and this young lady thought it her duty to inform her miſtreſs.

The

The Princeſs received this intelligence with diſdain.

"I deſpiſe the Counteſs too much," ſaid ſhe, "to concern myſelf with any thing ſhe can ſay of me; my conduct is irreproachable; and I am much more anxious about my duty than my reputation."

The conciliation between Kunigſmark and the Counteſs was of but ſhort duration.——Notwithſtanding their mutual caution, they had at laſt a quarrel, which proved irreparable; the Counteſs had been with child ſome months, though the Count had been two years at Vienna, where the Elector

tor had ſent him, to congratulate the Emperor Joſeph on his acceſſion to the throne.—She knew not how to conceal her pregnancy from the Elector, and doubted not that ſhe ſhould be ruined, if that Prince ſhould diſcover her perfidy.

In this perplexity, ſhe addreſſed herſelf to Kunigſmark, deſiring he would provide her medicines that would procure abortion.—He was ſhocked at ſuch a propoſal, and repreſented to her the enormity of the criminal deſign ſhe had formed; but he could not diſſuade her, and only drew upon himſelf the ſevereſt reproaches; and ſhe had recourſe to a phyſician, who,

who, either intimidated by her threats, or ſeduced by her promiſes, rendered her this horrible ſervice.

But whether he was not ſufficiently ſkilful, or that Heaven, in its wrath, to puniſh ſuch dreadful crimes, permitted it, ſuch terrible effects remained to herſelf, that her life was, from that time, only a continuation of wretchedneſs.*

But what was moſt unfortunate for her in this affair, her crime became

 public;

* The Counteſs, from the medicines ſhe took, loſt the uſe of her limbs.

public; one of her women, who had been in her confidence, and whom ſhe had diſmiſſed from her ſervice, took care to publiſh it, and alſo her connexion with Kunigſmark.

The Counteſs, hearing that her ſecret was diſcloſed, and that her affair with Kunigſmark was public, had every reaſon to fear the Elector's reſentment; and reſolving, in her own mind, how to prevent it, ſhe flattered herſelf ſhe had found the means, if ſhe could perſuade Kunigſmark to marry her daughter, which ſhe had by the Elector,* but who paſſed for the Count's;

* Madame de Killmeuſeck.

Count's; ſhe propoſed this match to him.—He at firſt laughed at her, and treated ſuch an idea as a jeſt; but ſeeing ſhe urged it ſeriouſly, he anſwered with ſcorn, that he never would be guilty of inceſt.

At this anſwer of Kunigſmark's, the eyes of the Counteſs were inflamed with rage and vexation, and all her former jealouſy was rekindled.

"Go," ſaid ſhe, "you are ungrateful, and do not deſerve that I ſhould even reproach you; but you ſhall ſoon learn that I am not to be contemned with impunity;" and without ſaying any thing more, ſhe paſſed haſtily in-

to her cloſet, and ſhut the door, leaving Kunigſmark confounded, and full of aſtoniſhment, to ſee ſo much wickedneſs united in one mind; and if he felt at all concerned at her menaces, it was only becauſe he apprehended they might fall on the Princeſs.

The Counteſs, having thus paſſed, in a moment, from the moſt tender love to the moſt violent hatred, thought only on the ruin of Kunigſmark and the Princeſs.—She obliged her ſiſter, Henrietta de Meiſebourg, to raiſe ſuſpicions in the Prince George, of the attachment he ſhewed for the Princeſs, whilſt, on her part, ſhe

ſhe endeavoured to render her conduct ſuſpected by the Elector.

"Obſerve, then, my Lord," ſaid ſhe to this Prince, in ſpeaking of Kunigſmark and the Princeſs, "and you will eaſily diſcover, that what I tell you, of their connexion, is but too true. I have no reaſon to be angry with them; on the contrary, Kunigſmark has ever endeavoured to oblige me; and it hurts me to ſpeak againſt him; but your intereſt, and the honour of your houſe, are dearer to me than the ties of friendſhip; and I ceaſe to look on that perſon as a friend, who ſhall dare to offend in ſo delicate a point."

She accompanied theſe words with ſo natural an air, and ſuch a ſemblance of truth, that the Elector, ſtill enamoured, ſuffered himſelf to be deceived, and thought only of obſerving the Princeſs.

Whilſt all this paſſed, that lady was far from ſuppoſing that the Elector and Prince George could ſuſpect her; and conſcious virtue encouraged her ſo much, that ſhe never thought that the ill offices, which ſhe knew the Counteſs was capable of doing her, would make any impreſſions on theſe Princes.

She

She continued, then, to treat Kunigſmark with the ſame degree of confidence.—The Counteſs did not fail to make the Elector remark even the ſlighteſt look that the Princeſs might happen to caſt on Kunigſmark.—The moſt trifling actions were conſtrued into crimes; and, in ſhort, ſhe wrought ſo on the mind of this Prince, that he began to think his daughter-in-law criminal, and to treat her with the utmoſt indifference.

Prince George, on his part, impelled by Henrietta, redoubled the harſhneſs of his proceedings towards her, and at laſt reduced this unfortunate Princeſs to think of ſeparating from

him; but ſhe judged it improper to determine on any thing of ſo delicate a nature, without firſt conſulting the Duke, her father.

She begged of the Electreſs to procure her the permiſſion to go to Zell; and this Princeſs took pleaſure in rendering her this ſervice.

The conformity of their ſituations had at laſt united the Electreſs with the Princeſs.—The Elector did not love his conſort, Princeſs Sophia, any more than Prince George, his amiable Princeſs; but he treated her with more reſpect; they had neither of them any power; their hatred for the Counteſs

Counteſs was mutual; and this perfidious woman equally diſtreſſed both; but the Electreſs, having more command over herſelf, ſhewed her more complaiſance, and was conſequently better treated by her.

The Electreſs, being a greater adept in the art of diſſimulation than moſt of her ſex, pretended to ſee, without concern, the attachment of the Elector for the Counteſs, and did not diſcover the ſmalleſt ſigns of jealouſy; and without a thorough knowledge how far this lady could diſguiſe her ſentiments, it was difficult to form any judgment of their reality.

Policy

Policy induced her to keep company with this favourite of the Elector's, in order to preſerve terms with him; and by this complaiſance, ſhe at leaſt reſerved to herſelf the pleaſure of having a drawing-room at her apartment, while the Princeſs, who held a different conduct, was often alone.

The whole Court knew the little regard her conſort had for her; they ſaw the father's miſtreſs, and that of the ſon's brave her with impunity; and they were not ignorant, that if the Elector ſtill ſhewed her any attention, that his policy, and the reſpect he paid the fair ſex in general, had more ſhare in it than friendſhip.

The

The Princeſs, who poſſeſſed more ſenſibility than the Electreſs, felt her troubles more acutely; and as ſhe underſtood not how to diſguiſe her feelings, the Electreſs eaſily diſcovered ſhe was unhappy, and was ſenſibly affected by it.

This Princeſs, naturally generous, thought it her duty to relieve the diſtreſſes of a perſon who ſo little merited the treatment ſhe experienced; and it was with this benevolent intention ſhe aſked permiſſion of the Elector, for the Princeſs to paſs a few months at her father's Court, which favour was granted.

It was great conſolation to this amiable Princeſs, to behold again the place of her birth.—Soon after her arrival, finding herſelf alone with Mademoiſelle de Molck, ſhe could not refrain from tears, at the recollection of the tranquillity ſhe had enjoyed in that place.

"Alas!" ſaid ſhe to that lady, "why have I not leſs grandeur, and more comfort; how happy was I here, my dear Molck, and how wretched am I at Hanover.

"Oh! had it pleaſed Heaven that I had been born in a more humble ſtation, then I might have beſtowed my

my hand with my heart, and ſhould not have been the victim of my father's policy; and I might have lived contented in unenvied obſcurity.

The Duke and Ducheſs of Zell entered at this moment.—They found their daughter bathed in tears, the ſight of which affected and ſurpriſed them, and they immediately inquired the cauſe of ſuch extraordinary affliction; but they were ſhocked when the Princeſs related the ill treatment ſhe received from Prince George, her conſort.

She then threw herſelf at her father's feet, and embracing his knees,

"My

"My Lord," ſaid ſhe, with a voice almoſt ſtifled with ſobs, "ſuffer me to implore your protection, and permit me to entreat of you to afford me an aſylum from the tyranny of my huſband."

The Duke, ſenſibly affected at the diſtreſſed ſituation in which he ſaw her, raiſed and embraced her; and after ſhedding a few involuntary tears, he uſed every argument to diſſuade her from the reſolution ſhe had taken; he conjured her, by the duty which ſhe owed him, not to think of ſeparating from her conſort, and to endeavour to ſupport her misfortunes with greater fortitude; but ſeeing ſhe perſiſted in beſeeching

beſeeching him to grant her a refuge, he told her, that although ſhe was dearer to him than life, he could never conſent to her requeſt, and that he abſolutely inſiſted on her return to Hanover.

The Duke then retired, charging the Ducheſs to calm the mind of her daughter, and to perſuade her to compliance with what he deſired, in which the Ducheſs, with difficulty, ſucceeded.

The Princeſs, finding herſelf ſo very unſucceſsful in her application, and feeling, more forcibly, the ill treatment of the Prince, by the unkindneſs

of

of her father, from whoſe tenderneſs ſhe had formed the moſt ſanguine expectations, became inconſolable and overwhelmed with deſpair; but at length the Ducheſs, having promiſed her that ſhe would endeavour to bring over Bernſtaff to join her, and, if poſſible, prevail on the Duke to change his opinion, ſhe felt a ſecret hope, that they might be able to ſoften her father; and this hope moderated her grief.

The Ducheſs ſpoke to the miniſter. She even condeſcended to entreat him to be favorable to her daughter;—but ſhe found his ſentiments quite oppoſite to her wiſhes.

He

He anſwered, with the greateſt indifference, that neither his conſcience, nor the duty he owed the Duke, herſelf, and the Princeſs, would allow him to adviſe his highneſs to conſent to his daughter's demand, ſince it muſt occaſion an irreparable breach with the Elector and his lady, who, ſooner or later, would not fail to reſent the affront that would be done them; a reſentment which was more to be feared for herſelf and the Princeſs, after the deceaſe of the Duke, than for any one elſe, ſince they could not avoid being in the power of the Prince, when he ſhould ſucceed to the Electorate; and

that, with a diſpoſition like his, revenge was a thing to be dreaded.

The miniſter continued to repreſent to the Ducheſs of Zell the diſhonour, a ſeparation (which might be termed a deſertion) would be to the Princeſs, and how much it would expoſe her to the malice of her enemies, and even the world, who is not much given to judge favourably of a woman who leaves her huſband.

He continued ſaying, it was for the honour of the Princeſs, the good of her children, and the ſafety of the people of Zell, that ſhe ſhould live with

with him, whom Heaven had deſtined for her conſort.

That, notwithſtanding the diſregard he might ſhew her, ſhe would always be more reſpected at his Court than any where elſe; that, in fine, by living at Hanover, ſhe might, in time, gain over Prince George; that there were few paſſions, however violent they might be, but had an end; and it was to be hoped, that which he entertained for Henrietta de Merſbouch, would alſo have its termination; that this Prince would, doubtleſs, then, return to the Princeſs, and acknowledge the wrong he had done

her; a hope ſhe would for ever loſe, if ſhe refuſed to return to him.

The Ducheſs underſtood his reaſons, and approved them; and, in ſhort, joined the Duke in engaging her to return to Hanover; ſo there remained no reſource to the unfortunate Sophia, than that which her own deſpair might ſuggeſt.

In the mean time, Bernſtaff triumphed, in having perſuaded the Ducheſs that it was her intereſt, and that of the Princeſs, which made him oppoſe the latter.

Inſtead

Inſtead of which, as he was ignorant what might be his own fate, after the death of the Duke, he thought only of eſtabliſhing himſelf in the favour of the Elector, and his ſon, Prince George, that the advanced age of the Duke made him already conſider them as his maſters.

He foreſaw, that, if the Duke detained his daughter, ſhe would ſoon ſolicit that Prince to conſent to an entire divorce from her huſband, and that, in obtaining it, the Princeſs would ſoon prevail on him to make a change in the ſucceſſion of his dominions, which would effectually deſtroy

all his own ambitious deſigns, and overthrow his fortunes: Whereas he did not doubt the ſecuring it, by the ſervice he ſhould render the Houſe of Hanover.

The diſtreſſed Princeſs, not finding an aſylum with the Duke, her father, as ſhe had hoped, was conſtrained to return to Hanover.

She was there received with great indifference, by the Elector and Prince George; Bernſtaff having informed them of what had paſſed at Zell, and made a merit to theſe Princes of having oppoſed the Princeſs.

Prince

Prince George reproached the Princeſs bitterly, and threatened to make her, one day, repent the complaints ſhe had made of him at Zell.—She ſupported theſe menaces with apparent conſtancy, while ſhe was meditating on the moſt eligible means to eſcape from his tyranny.

The troubles of the Court gave her full liberty for ſuch an undertaking.—The Prince was too much engaged in diſputes with his brother, Maximilian, to have leiſure to think on her.

There reigned between theſe Princes a mortal enmity: The courtiers

eſpouſed the cauſe of each, according to their intereſt or inclination; and although ſeniority ſeemed to give prerogative to Prince George, his reſerved, his too great a diſpoſition to economy, and his natural inſenſibility, led thoſe, who attached themſelves to him, to do it more from duty than inclination.

Prince Maximilian had many faults; but he was full of vivacity and ſpirit, eaſy of acceſs, and truly liberal, which attracted moſt of the young perſons of the Court, and occaſioned many of the nobility to wiſh that the Elector would divide his dominions between him and Prince George.

The

The natural bias of the Elector's inclination tended to favour ſuch a diviſion, as he had not the ſame tenderneſs and affection for his eldeſt ſon as for Duke Maximilian; he did not think he poſſeſſed ſufficient courage and activity; but the good fortune of Prince George, ſupported by the credit of the Counteſs, ever united in intereſt with him, overcame the Elector's predilection for his ſecond ſon, and deprived him of thoſe advantages which he expected from his father's tenderneſs.

He could not ſee himſelf deprived of ſuch flattering hopes, without the

utmoſt vexation, and conceived a mortal hatred againſt his brother.— His youth, and extreme vivacity, would not permit him to diſſimulate; and his ambition prompted him to think of obtaining, by ſtratagem and force, what was not *his*, from right of birth.

He began by attaching to his cauſe ſeveral noblemen of Zell, who were diſſatisfied at ſeeing their country likely to become a province to Hanover, in caſe Prince George ſhould inherit the Dukedom.

He

He then ſent Count Molck, one of his confidents, to demand of the Emperor that he might be declared heir to the Duke of Zell, under the pretence that the Dukedom and the Electorate could never be united under one governor.

Mulck concluded the treaty, which was very advantageous to the Imperialiſts.—He then returned to Hanover, for his maſter to ratify it; but he was no ſooner arrived there, than he was arreſted and ſearched, when they found upon him the treaty, which diſcovered, to a certainty, the ſubject of his negotiation, of which the Count

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de Plate, who had great correſpondence at Vienna, had been informed, but which did not mention thoſe who were in the intereſts of Maximilian.

Molck was interrogated;—they threatened to put him to the moſt horrible tortures, if he did not declare the whole; and, on the contrary, they offered him a free pardon, if he would accuſe the Princeſs of being in league with Maximilian.

"The Count muſt not expect from me ſo infamous a falſhood," replied Molck, to thoſe who were ſent to him; "and let him know, that I prefer

prefer death to a life, which, preſerved by ſuch baſe conduct, would render me as deſpicable as himſelf."

He then inquired what was done with Prince Maximilian; and having been informed that he fled as ſoon as he knew that he was arreſted, and believed him gone to Vienna—"My maſter is in ſafety," ſaid he; "I have nothing more to fear; I brave the fury of the Court."

Molck's anſwer did not leave his enemy without hope, that he might yet be able to involve the Princeſs in his diſgrace; he had the audacity to go

go to her apartment, and interrogate her as a criminal; he made uſe of fraud and artifice: He told her, the only thing ſhe could do, was to throw herſelf on the mercy of the Elector and Prince George, ſince her confeſſion was not wanting to aſſure them of her crime, Molck and his companions having confeſſed the whole.

"I am ignorant," ſaid the Princeſs, "what Molck may have ſaid; but as I have ever known him to be virtuous, I doubt if he would ſully his reputation by ſo black a calumny; but be it as it will, I will never aſk pardon, when.

when I have done nothing to deſerve it.

" I have not committed any crime againſt the ſtate, or my huſband, and you are well perſuaded of my innocence, though you dare to be my accuſer and my judge.—It is not probable I ſhould have eſpouſed the cauſe of my brother-in-law to my own diſadvantage, and that of my children, in depriving them of a Dukedom.

" Believe me, Count, if you have ſworn my ruin, you ſhould invent a more plauſible accuſation; the preſent will only augment the public hatred

hatred againſt you; and be aſſured, that although you may oppreſs me, you will never be able to ſully my character.

"But, continued ſhe, "I am inſenſibly engaging myſelf in reproaches, which you may take for explanations, into which I ſhall never condeſcend to enter with you.

"Go, then, and make uſe of that power given to you by the Elector and my huſband; take from me this feeble remain of life; you have it in your power; the ſtroke will be acceptable;

ceptable; and it is the only ſervice I will ever receive from you."

The Count, who only took part againſt the Princeſs, to oblige his wife, felt ſome remorſe at having diſtreſſed her.—He would have juſtified himſelf, and perhaps might have obtained a reconciliation, if the Princeſs would have condeſcended to have heard him.

"No juſtifications—no excuſes," ſaid ſhe to him; "I will hear none; and expect nothing from me but the utmoſt contempt."

With theſe words ſhe left the room, leaving the Count petrified with mortification and diſappointment.

Although the unfortunate Count Molck had, on the ſcaffold, exonerated the Princeſs from having any knowledge of Prince Maximilian's deſign, yet the cruel Prince did not ceaſe, daily, to load her with reproaches, and ſtimulated by Henrietta, his brother's plot ſerved him as a pretence to increaſe his ſeverity towards her, by which means he brought her to a determination, to put in practice her long projected deſign of eſcaping from his tyranny by flight.

She

She imparted her intentions to Kunigſmark, being the only perſon of the Court in whom ſhe could confide;—and after having charged Mademoiſelle de Molck to introduce him into her cloſet, ſhe told him, before this young lady, that ſhe was reſolved to quit Hanover, and retire into France, where Lewis the Fourteenth, protector (of ſo many unfortunate Princes) would willingly grant her an aſylum from the fury of her enemies.

"I know," ſaid ſhe, "your zeal and your virtue; you have long poſſeſſed my confidence; I do not heſitate to intruſt you with my intended

elopement; you know how juſt the proceeding is; you know my heart; and you know the wrongs I ſuffer, and thoſe I have to fear.

"The cruel neceſſity obliges me to fly from ſo much tyranny; yet I truſt you will believe it wounds my feelings, when I reflect I am on the point of being for ever ſeparated from my huſband, my children, and my country."

The eyes of the Princeſs were ſuffuſed with tears; ſhe could utter no more; her melancholy ſituation penetrated the heart of the too ſuſceptible Kunigſmark.

A crowd of ideas preſented themſelves to his imagination; the cruelty of Prince George; the hatred of the Counteſs; the misfortunes of the Princeſs; the reſolution which ſhe had taken; the confidence ſhe had repoſed in him; and, in ſhort, the hope of being ſoon in a ſituation to ſee her, without reſtraint, were thoſe which moſt engaged, and for ſome moments, hindered him from ſpeaking.

The Princeſs, ſuſpecting his ſilence proceeded from his diſinclination to ſerve her, viewed him ſome moments with fixed attention; then reſuming her diſcourſe—"You do not anſwer

me," ſaid ſhe to him; "and you, who have ſo often profeſſed to be attached to my intereſt, abandon me, at a time when I place all my hope in you.

"Ah! Kunigſmark, is this what you promiſed?"

"No," anſwered Kunigſmark;—"my ſilence does not ariſe from a want of zeal for you, nor for want of reſolution to ſerve you.—If I have teſtified any ſurpriſe, it had no other foundation than apprehenſion for your ſafety; diſpoſe of me, and of my life; depend on my fidelity; I will inſure your

your flight; I will deliver you from this horrible abode, even (if requiſite) at the hazard of my life; but pardon me, Madam; though I account the honour of ſerving you the greateſt happineſs of my life, if I miſtruſt my own good fortune; and if I am apprehenſive, I ſhall not be ſucceſsful in my enterpriſe."

"Heaven will favour us, Kunigſmark," replied the Princeſs; "let us place an entire confidence in the Supreme Being, who, knowing the juſtice of my cauſe, will grant me his protection; but if, in his infinite wiſdom, he ſees it good to diſappoint

my wiſhes, I ſhall bow ſubmiſſive to his will."

Kunigſmark could not refrain his admiration at the virtues of this Princeſs.—He was charmed at her reſolution; he repeated his aſſurances of fidelity, and agreed with her, that he would have horſes ready to conduct her to Hamburgh, from whence ſhe might embark for France.—This project being ſettled between the Princeſs and Kunigſmark, this nobleman exerted his utmoſt endeavours to put it in execution, but found ſo many difficulties in the completion of his ſcheme, that he was obliged to have

ſeveral

ſeveral ſecret interviews with the Princeſs, who always ſpoke to him in the preſence of Mademoiſelle de Molck at night, when every one was retired.

The air of myſtery attendant on this confidence was no ſmall pleaſure to Kunigſmark; he always found ſo much to ſay, and was ſo delighted in the company of the Princeſs, that he was often induced to prolong thoſe moments, which appeared to him ſo agreeable, that Mademoiſelle de Molck was ſometimes obliged to remind him it was time to retire, whilſt the ſprightly ſallies of Kunigſmark made

the Princeſs, for a time, forget her diſtreſsful ſituation.

Theſe interviews could not be held ſo ſecretly, but that the Counteſs (who watched every motion of the Princeſs, in order to effect her ruin) diſcovered them: She immediately informed the Elector, who, judging from falſe appearances, no longer doubted the Princeſs's guilt; and he would certainly have openly ſhewed his indignation againſt her and Kunigſmark, if he could have determined in what manner to puniſh them.

Kunigſmark

Kunigſmark prevented, for ſome time, the effects of his rage.—Having ſet out from Hanover, under pretence of going to make a viſit to his ſiſter, who was principal favourite at the Court of Auguſtus, King of Poland; he took, for ſome days, the road to that kingdom; but being out of the Elector's dominions, he left his attendants, and, accompanied by one ſervant only, he went to Hamburgh, where he ſettled every thing for the departure of the Princeſs, and then, with inconceivable diligence, travelled to the Court of Auguſtus.

It

It was there that his conduct and prudence forſook him; when, in a ſtate of inebriation, at a ſupper given by the King of Poland, they drank to exceſs; and when the wine began to enliven their imaginations, the King propoſed to his company, that each ſhould relate his affairs of gallantry, and tell what ſucceſs he expected with his favourite lady.—As he became intoxicated, Kunigſmark, the imprudent Kunigſmark, without reflecting that he ſpoke in the preſence of a Hanoverian nobleman, boaſted the favours of the Counteſs; recounted the manner in which ſhe propoſed to him to procure her medicines, to prevent

her

her ſhame being pregnant, in the abſence of her huſband, and alſo her having urged him to marry her daughter.—In ſhort, he related all her infidelities to the Elector; then inſenſibly falling into diſcourſe about the Princeſs, he recited the ill treatment ſhe received from Prince George, and added, that this Princeſs, finding herſelf abandoned by her father, was on the point of eſcaping into France.

The Hanoverian, who liſtened attentively to Kunigſmark, was a man of quality, who, for having diſpleaſed the Counteſs, was obliged to quit the Electoral Court.—He was fondly attached

tached to his country, and wiſhed for nothing more ardently, than to be enabled to return to it: He immediately conceived the idea, that if he wrote an account to the Counteſs, of all that Kunigſmark had ſaid, he might procure his recall:—He did not look upon himſelf as guilty of a treachery. Having never been in the habits of friendſhip with Kunigſmark, he took care his information ſhould be the moſt circumſtantial imaginable; and the Counteſs was but too well aſſured of the truth of the whole, conſcious as ſhe was of deſerving that part which related to herſelf.

It

It is difficult to conceive this woman's rage, at reading this fatal letter. She gave herſelf up entirely to her reſentment, in her deſpair; ſhe went to the Elector, and made bitter complaints to him, of the outrage Kunigſmark had done her.—She then related all that this perfidious lover had told of the Princeſs; and ſhe ſo well underſtood how to irritate the Elector, that this Prince ſwore to revenge her in ſuch a manner, as no one hereafter ſhould dare to offend her. The Elector was in the height of his paſſion when the unfortunate Kunigſmark, returned from Poland, came to pay his reſpects to him.—He gave him ſo

cold a reception, that Kunigſmark, confounded, not knowing the ſubject of his diſgrace, to which he would have been more ſenſible, had he not expected ſoon to leave Hanover for ever.

The Elector, having paſſed haſtily to the apartment of the Counteſs, Kunigſmark went to that of the Electreſs, where he found the Princeſs, who, by the gracious reception ſhe gave him, diſſipated the chagrin which the apparent diſpleaſure of the Elector had occaſioned.

However

However impatient the Princeſs might be to learn the ſucceſs of his enterpriſe, ſhe forbore to inquire, Knowing all her actions would be obſerved, ſhe ordered Mademoiſelle de Molck to appoint Kunigſmark to attend her at midnight, that he might inform her if he had been fortunate in his undertaking.

Kunigſmark did not fail to obey; he found the Princeſs in her cloſet with Mademoiſelle.—She eagerly inquired, as ſoon as he appeared, if ſhe might look on him as her deliverer, and if all was ready for her flight.— Kunigſmark aſſured her he had ſettled every thing,

and ſhe had only to give orders for her departure.

The Princeſs expreſſed her gratitude, and mentioned the next evening.—Kunigſmark preſſed her not to delay.—He repreſented to her, that every thing favored the attempt; the Prince was abſent; the Counteſs indiſpoſed; and the Elector too much taken up with her, to attend to any thing; that, if ſhe procraſtinated her eſcape but a few hours, it might not be in her power to effect it.—Prince George might return, and the malice of the Counteſs might prevail on the Elector to have her watched; that he could

could not forget the reception he had met with from the Elector, ſo contrary to the manners and character of that Prince; that, in ſhort, although till now he had never been ſenſible of fear, yet he trembled, now he ſaw her in danger, and beſought her (if poſſible) to ſet out that very inſtant.

Theſe arguments did not make any change in the ſentiments of the Princeſs.—She told him, ſhe could not reſolve to go, without bidding adieu to her children; that there was no reaſon to fear the return of Prince George, ſince he was to remain another month with the King of Pruſſia,

to whom he was gone to pay a viſit;* that the rage of the Elector was no longer to be feared; that Prince not being naturally violent; and it was her opinion, ſhe might defer her departure till the next day, without any riſk of loſing the opportunity. Kuningſmark was vexed to ſee the Princeſs ſo firm in her reſolution, but not daring to oppoſe it any more, was obliged to ſubmit.

She ſent him away ſoon after, appointing the next night, at the ſame hour.

* King George was not at Berlin when his wife was arreſted, and knew nothing of it till it was done.

hour; telling him ſhe would then reſign herſelf to his protection.

Kunigſmark then retired, intending to join his attendants, who were waiting for him at a ſmall diſtance from the palace, but he was prevented by a moſt melancholy cataſtrophe. Henrietta, who was with the Electreſs when Kunigſmark arrived, had remarked that the Princeſs ſhewed ſigns of joy at his return; that ſhe had given ſome private orders to Mademoiſelle, who ſpoke apart to Kunigſmark. She thought there muſt be ſome myſtery in it, and haſtened to communicate her ſuſpicions to the Elector and the

Counteſs, who were both of her opinion, and did not doubt but it was to contrive an interview between the Princeſs and Kunigſmark, that Mademoiſelle had ſpoken to this nobleman.

All the jealous rage of the Counteſs being rekindled at this report of her ſiſter, ſhe beſought the Elector not to defer, for an inſtant, the puniſhment of the raſh Kunigſmark.—"The honour of your ſon, my Lord, your own, and that of your houſe," ſaid ſhe to him, "ought to excite you to revenge yourſelf on a preſumptuous youth, who

who dares to brave you in your very palace.

"But if theſe reaſons cannot actuate you, remember, my Lord, you have promiſed to revenge the inſult he did my reputation at the Court of Poland, and know, I ceaſe to be your's, if you do not grant me his head."

She accompanied theſe laſt words with a menacing air, which made the too credulous Elector fear that he might loſe her; and, as ſhe was more precious to him than any other conſideration, he ſwore to put Kunigſmark to death.

The Counteſs, ſeeing the Elector was ready to ſacrifice him to ſatisfy her revenge, and only heſitated upon the choice of the perſons whom he ſhould charge with the cruel commiſſion, told him ſhe was ſure of four men, who only waited her orders.

When they came, the Elector knew them to belong to his guards; he ſpoke to them himſelf, and commanded them to wait for Kunigſmark (in one of the galleries of the palace, at the end of which was the Princeſs's apartment) and ſtab him on his return.

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The Counteſs, who feared ſhe might not be well ſerved, was not ſatisfied with this order; ſhe required of the Elector that he ſhould aſſiſt, in perſon, at this ſhocking execution (and it is ſaid) the Elector, who had not power to refuſe her, conſented; and having diſguiſed himſelf, and covered his face, accompanied the aſſaſſins to the gallery.

They did not wait long; the unfortunate Kunigſmark made his appearance a few moments afterwards, when he was attacked by his enemies. He immediately drew his ſword, and would doubtleſs have made them pay dear

dear for his life, if his ſword had not broke, after a few moments combat—when, finding himſelf defenceleſs, he ſaid to his murderers, "tell him that ſent you, my blood is a ſufficient atonement, and let him ſpare that of the innocent Princeſs."

He then fell down dead, pronouncing this name ſo dear to him; and theſe ruffians repeated their ſtabs ſeveral times

The Elector then appeared, and ordered that they ſhould caſt their unfortunate victim into a vault, which this Prince cauſed to be blocked up

the

the next day.*—He then went to the Counteſs, and informed her ſhe was revenged; and this woman received the news with a joy which only a ſoul like her's could feel.

The Princeſs, in the mean time, knew not the misfortune of Kunigſmark; ſhe retired ſoon after he had left her; but the agitation of her mind would not allow her to ſleep.

A thouſand reflexions diſquieted her, and occupied her mind till it was nearly

* The Elector, the father of George the Firſt, having cauſed Kunigſmark to be aſſaſſinated, had his body thrown into a place which was walled up.

nearly time to riſe, when Mademoiſelle de Molck entered her chamber.

" Pardon me, Madam," ſaid ſhe, " if my zeal for your ſervice will not permit me to ſuppreſs an information, which, I fear, will wound your peace."

" Speak, ſpeak, Mademoiſelle," ſaid the Princeſs, interrupting her, " I am prepared for the moſt diſaſterous events; and all you can acquaint me with will trouble me but little."

This lady, charmed to ſee her ſo reſigned, did not delay to inform her that

that Kunigſmark had not been at home; that his people had ſought for him every where, without being able to obtain the leaſt information; and that, from a violent noiſe, that had been heard in one of the galleries, together with a quantity of blood, found in that place, they had been induced to ſuſpect he had been murdered, returning from her preſence.

"Kunigſmark is dead," cried the Princeſs; "I make no doubt of it; and the barbarous Counteſs marked him as her victim, for having been attached to my intereſt."

The

The Princeſs was ſilent ſome moments; then reſuming her diſcourſe, ſaid, "ſurely the meaſure of my woes is full, and Heaven, in mercy, will permit the Counteſs to make me the ſecond victim to her revenge:—"It is, Great God, the only bleſſing I implore;—deign, Oh! Father of mercies, to hear my prayer."

Mademoiſelle, affected at the ſufferings of the Princeſs, could not refrain from tears.

"Weep not, Mademoiſelle," ſaid ſhe; "my griefs are of a nature ſuperior to tears; they take their ſource from

from ſmaller woes than mine; do not let me ſee any weakneſs, but learn to ſubmit to the will of Heaven: I defy the fury of the Counteſs, and the cruelty of the too eaſy Elector; I will, by my fortitude, make them bluſh, if poſſible, at their inhumanity; and without murmuring againſt Providence, who has, for a long time, tried my conſtancy, I will patiently wait the accompliſhment of my deſtiny."

One of the Princeſs's women came in at this moment, to acquaint Mademoiſelle that ſome one inquired for her.—Having ſomething of conſe-

quence

quence to communicate, Mademoiſelle ventured, but ſoon rejoined her miſtreſs, to tell her that one of Kunigſmark's ſervants came to inform her that a ſecretary of ſtate had ſeized all his maſter's papers, and had carried them to the Counteſs; and that this ſame ſervant underſtood, by one of that lady's women, that ſhe had obtained leave of the Elector to look over the papers of this unfortunate gentleman, under pretence that ſhe wiſhed to ſee if Kunigſmark had not had an intrigue with ſome ladies of the Court, but, in reality, it was to take away ſome letters ſhe had written to him herſelf, which would have diſcovered

covered the whole of her perfidy to the credulous Elector.—At this news the Princeſs gave herſelf up as loſt, as ſhe apprehended Kunigſmark might have kept the letter ſhe had written to him herſelf, on the ſubject of her eſcape during his reſidence in Poland.

The ſuſpicions of the Princeſs were but too true; the imprudent Kunigſmark had careſully preſerved theſe fatal letters; the Counteſs found them in a private drawer; and, after having read them, ſhe ſhewed them to the Elector, who clearly ſaw the Princeſs's deſign was to retire into France.

The pointed raillery which this lady there made upon his amours with the Counteſs, together with the complaints ſhe made of the ſeverity of the Duke of Zell, and of her huſband, one of whom ſhe termed an old tyrant, and the other an unfeeling monſter, exaſperated the Elector againſt her; his indignation was extreme, and he gave himſelf up entirely to his reſentment; he ſent immediately and arreſted Mademoiſelle de Molck, and gave orders that the Princeſs ſhould not quit her own apartment.—He at the ſame time diſpatched an expreſs to Prince George, and ſent the Count de Plate to the Duke of Zell, to inform him of

of what had happened reſpecting his daughter.

The Prince delayed not to return to Hanover, and at firſt ſeemed not to approve of the public manner in which the affair had been conducted. He reproached the Counteſs, and told her ſhe might have been contented with the death of Kunigſmark, without cauſing the Princeſs and Mademoiſelle de Molck to be arreſted, as their diſgrace was a reflection on him; but he ſoon changed his opinions, when the Counteſs informed him of the manner in which the Princeſs ſpoke of him in her letters to Kunigſ-

mark, and not only approved of the proceedings, but reſolved to puniſh his wife with the utmoſt rigour.

The Duke of Zell perfectly acquieſced, and told the Elector, that, ſince the Princeſs, by her letters, had forgot he was her father, that he ſhould no longer acknowledge her as his daughter, and that he left him entire maſter of her deſtiny.

The Ducheſs of Zell was more ſenſible to the unhappy fate of her daughter; ſhe threw herſelf at the feet of her huſband, to entreat he would protect the unfortunate Prin-

ceſs; but this Prince was inſenſible to her tears, and anſwered her coolly, that he no longer remembered that he had a daughter.

This anſwer, taking away all hope from the Ducheſs, of being able to prevail on her huſband to alter his opinion, ſhe wrote to the Princeſs, to exhort her to ſubmit to the decrees of Heaven, and wait patiently the will of Providence, who, in his own good time, would make her virtues apparent, and reward them.

The Count, to whom this letter was addreſſed, gave it to the Princeſs, and

the Elector ſent to inform her, that, having reſolved to ſend her to Zell, ſhe had only to prepare to ſet out immediately. The miniſter acquitted himſelf of his commiſſion with inconceivable arrogance, and had the audacity to carry his inſolence ſo far, as to aſk her if it was true that ſhe was pregnant by Kunigſmark, as it was ſo reported.

" You imagine you are ſpeaking to your wife," replied the Princeſs, diſdainfully; " it is of her you ſhould aſk that queſtion; ſhe is more concerned to juſtify herſelf than I am, who

who ſcorn to vindicate myſelf to you."

"Go," continued ſhe, "finiſh your work; I have nothing to ſay to you; go, and offend me no longer, by your preſence."

The haughty miniſter, irritated by her manner, left the room, meditating on the means to lower the pride of the Princeſs.—To ſucceed in depriving her of her liberty, was not ſufficient; he wiſhed to ſully her reputation;—with this view he viſited the priſon of Mademoiſelle de Molck, and endea-

voured to gain her over to his intereſt, by promiſes and threats.

" Your favours are hateful to me," ſaid Mademoiſelle de Molck, " if they are to be the reward of my treachery;—and your menaces ſerve only to attach me more firmly to my duty: Imagine not that I will purchaſe my life by the blackeſt perfidy; and know, that if you even cauſe me to mount the ſcaffold, I will there give public teſtimony to the virtues of the amiable Princeſs, of the barbarity of your wife, and of your injuſtice."

This diſcourſe, which was delivered with a noble firmneſs, deprived him of all

all hope of being able to gain over Mademoiſelle; he quitted her abruptly, threatening her with his reſentment.

He then went to give orders for the departure of the Princeſs, having agreed with Bernſtaff, firſt miniſter of the Duke of Zell, that the Princeſs ſhould be taken to that place, and ſafely guarded in the Caſtle of Ahlen, ſix miles from this capital.

A Captain of the Elector's guards came to inform the Princeſs, that it was time to depart.—He was charged, at the ſame time, to inform her of the death

death of Kunigſmark. The confirmation of that nobleman's death did not fail to affect the Princeſs, who, till that time, could not forbear flattering herſelf that they had not proceeded to ſuch violent meaſures.

She honoured his memory with a few tears, reproaching herſelf with his death, as if ſhe had really been an accomplice in it.

The palace of Hanover was ſhocking to her.—" Let us go," ſaid ſhe to her conductor; " let me leave this horrid place.—If you take me even to a dungeon, I ſhall prefer it."

She

She went out of her apartment as ſhe pronounced theſe words, and got into her carriage, without knowing whence ſhe was going. She arrived at the Caſtle of Ahlen, after a few hours journey.

The governor received her with a great deal of reſpect, and conducted her to the apartment that had been propoſed for her, and informed her, that, in this Caſtle, ſhe was to paſs the remainder of her days.

He preſented to her the domeſtics choſen by the Elector, and the Duke to attend her, who were all people of whom

whom ſhe had not the ſmalleſt knowledge.

The day after her arrival in this melancholy place, the Elector and her father ſent two ſecretaries of ſtate, to interrogate her;—if (to the ſcandal of the Elector, and the Duke and Prince George, her conſort) ſhe had not had a deſign of retiring into France with Kunigſmark, and if ſhe never had any criminal correſpondence with him?

The Princeſs anſwered, "It was true, that not being able longer to ſupport the ill uſage of her huſband, ſhe had formed a deſign of retiring into France,

France, and placing herſelf in a convent; that Kunigſmark was to have accompanied her on the journey, there being no other perſon in whom ſhe could confide; but as to the criminal connexion with which they accuſed her, ſhe atteſted Heaven to witneſs her innocence; ſhe wiſhed that the ancient Pagan law had been in force, which permitted women, accuſed of adultery, to prove their innocence, by an ordeal, as ſhe was ready to ſuffer any trial which could be ſuggeſted."

She aſked permiſſion to take the holy ſacrament; and when the miniſter preſented her the bread, ſhe took

took it, and raiſing it in her hands towards Heaven, ſhe ſaid, with a loud voice, calling God to witneſs her ſincerity, that ſhe was as guiltleſs of the crime imputed to her, as the mother of him, whoſe body and blood ſhe was then receiving,.—When the cup was offered her, ſhe repeated the ſame, taking it with ſuch a modeſt, though aſſured air, as did not fail to convince the prieſt, and every one preſent, of her innocence.

After ſo ſolemn a teſtimony of her virtue, no one doubted it.—Nevertheleſs, the Duke, her father, would not be perſuaded to pardon her.—He could

could not forget the manner in which ſhe had ſpoken of him in her letters to Kunigſmark; and notwithſtanding the prayers and entreaties of the Ducheſs to reſtore her daughter to liberty, he never would conſent to it.

The Elector, in the mean time, being informed of what had paſſed at the chapel, and that the Princeſs had made ſo ſolemn an atteſtation of her innocence, as had convinced every one.—Apprehending the return of the Duke's affection towards his daughter, and that he might one day revenge the outrage which had been done to her, by changing the order of the ſucceſſion

ceſſion to his dominions, to the prejudice of Prince George, perſuaded this Prince to make an offer to the Princeſs of a re union, and the propoſal was accordingly made to her.

The Count and Counteſs of Plate did not oppoſe the meaſure, being well perſuaded that it would be rejected by the Princeſs; and, in reality, her anſwer to the propoſition was this:—"Tell Prince George," ſaid ſhe to thoſe who came to her from him, "that, after what has paſſed, it is impoſſible we can ever be re-united;—ſince, if I am guilty, I am unworthy of

of him; and if innocent, he is unworthy of me."

The Prince was ſo irritated at this refuſal, that he ſolicited his father-in-law to conſent to have the marriage diſanulled in form, to which the Duke having agreed, the Elector aſſembled the conſiſtories of Hanover and Zell, who declared the marriage of Prince George to be void, permitting him to marry again; but the Princeſs was not allowed the ſame liberty.

This divorce was one of the Elector's laſt works.—He ſoon after fell

into ſo bad a ſtate of health, as deprived him of the ability of attending to buſineſs.*—His diſorder was accompanied with ſuch excruciating pains, that he prayed continually for diſſolution.—Still, however, ſubmiſſive to the laſt, to the will of the Counteſs, and thinking only of pleaſing her, he could not ſurmount his hatred for the Princeſs, and was willing to leave proofs of it, even after his deceaſe.

Finding

* He was paralytic for two years, and frequently attacked with a cholic, which ſcarce gave him any reſpite.—When he was opened, his inteſtines were found to be entirely decayed.

Finding his end approach, he ſent for the Duke of Zell, his brother, to come and take his laſt embrace.—The Duke, being arrived at Hanover, the Elector ſolicited him to give aſſurance, by oath, that he would never pardon the Princeſs; that ſhe ſhould remain all her life a priſoner at Ahlen, and that he would make no alteration in the ſucceſſion to his dominions, which were to remain to Prince George.

The Duke of Zell, affected at the ſituation in which he found his brother, promiſed him every thing, and kept his promiſe but too well;—his

favourite Bernſtaff, having all his life time, underſtood how to manage his diſpoſition, made a point to ſtifle every emotion of compaſſion which nature might ſometimes awaken in his breaſt, in favour of his daughter.

* The Counteſs did not ſurvive the Elector more than two years; and that time was a continued ſucceſſion of miſeries.—At laſt, that God, whom ſhe had ſo offended by her repeated crimes,

* The Counteſs de Plate died of the ſame diſeaſe as the Elector.—A phyſician from Hamburgh undertook to cure her, and ordered her to bathe twice a day in milk; and this lady thought ſhe did a great act of charity, in giving this milk to the poor.

crimes, called her to render up the dreadful account.—The death of the Elector abated, in ſome degree, the rigours of the Princeſs's impriſonment. The Ducheſs, her mother, obtained permiſſion of her huſband to go ſometimes to ſee her, and to paſs the day with her.

This unfortunate Princeſs ſupported her diſgrace with a fortitude which cannot be ſufficiently admired. She took great delight in walking and needle-work; ſhe ſoon began to look on the affairs of this world in a different view to that in which ſhe was accuſtomed; to regard them, when ſur-

rounded with a numerous and brilliant court.—She uſed herſelf to frequent meditation; and her long impriſonment made it at laſt habitual. If any thing gave her pain, it was the regret of having offended her father.—She lived ſeveral years in this ſituation, during which time ſhe learnt that * Mademoiſelle de Molck had eſcaped from her guards, and had retired to Vienna; but at length Heaven thought proper to put her conſtancy to

* This lady was confined in the tower of Niewbourg, and had the courage to let herſelf down from the height of a hundred and fourſcore feet, and went fourteen German leagues on foot, to get out of the Hanoverian dominions.

to a farther trial, by depriving her of that father, whoſe forgiveneſs ſhe had ſo long ſought in vain.

She was informed of his ſickneſs and death at the ſame time.—This news afflicted her ſo violently, that ſhe almoſt loſt her reaſon. She was ſeveral days in a ſtate of inſenſibility; but when, at intervals, ſhe reflected he died without deigning to ſee her, or to forgive her, and that ſhe had loſt his friendſhip by her own imprudence, it is impoſſible to repreſent the horror ſhe felt.

She remained ſeveral months in this dreadful ſituation, which was afterwards ſucceeded by a ſettled melancholy.

The death of the Duke of Zell made a great change in the fortune of the Ducheſs.—Prince George, having ſucceeded to the Duchy, was entirely governed by Bernſtaff, who held the place of (the Count de Plate,* who died a ſhort time before the Duke of Zell) this miniſter, never ceaſed to torment her; and it was with the utmoſt difficulty ſhe preſerved the privilege of viſiting her daughter.

They

* This miniſter was totally blind the laſt ſix years of his life.

They obliged her to quit the palace of Zell, although Prince George never occupied it; and ſhe was treated in the moſt inſulting manner.

Heaven ſeemed willing to revenge the Ducheſs and her daughter, by the death of all their enemies. Henrietta de Maiſebourg dragged on a miſerable exiſtence; her infirmities obliging her to keep her bed twenty years.

Bernſtaff could not preſerve his favour at Court, and died in conſequence of his diſappointed ambition.

The

The Electreſs Sophia ended her days juſt as ſhe was on the point of aſcending the throne of England; an event to which ſhe had ever looked forward with the utmoſt ſolicitude.

Queen Ann dying a few months after this Princeſs, the fortunate Prince George was acknowledged King of Great Britain, at a time when he leaſt expected it.—He paſſed over into that iſland, and took with him his only ſon, whom he had by the Princeſs of Zell; and this amiable lady envied not that good fortune, of which ſhe ought to have partaken.

It

It gave her, nevertheleſs, a ſenſible pleaſure to hear her ſon was more beloved by the Engliſh than his father.

But her ſatisfaction was ſoon clouded, by an irreparable blow, in the death of her mother, her only earthly conſolation.—This ſtroke was ſevere indeed, and required all her fortitude; but long diſciplined in the ſchool of affliction, by a ſeries of misfortunes, ſhe had learned reſignation to the will of Heaven.

This death naturally turned her thoughts on her own diſſolution, which,

haſtened by miſery and woe, took place a ſhort time afterwards.

Prince George heard of it.—With his natural indifference, he did not even put on mourning for her, and was offended that the King of Pruſſia, his ſon-in-law, paid that honour to her memory.

The King outlived his conſort but a few months.—His dominions devolved to his ſon, by this illuſtrious lady, who aſcended the throne as George the Second, and who reigned glorioufly over his people, inheriting all his mother's virtues.—Like her, he

he was the delight of his ſubjects, and left an example, worthy of imitation, to ſucceeding Monarchs.

After a long and ſucceſsful reign, his eldeſt ſon dying Prince of Wales, he was ſucceeded by his grandſon, our preſent moſt gracious Sovereign, whoſe faithful ſubjects pray for an uninterrupted ſucceſſion on the throne of theſe realms, to the deſcendants of the illuſtrious Heroine of theſe

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